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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Plywood Factory in Tyumen

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1. The Tyumen plywood factory, which produces plywood sheets for the construction of planes and special boats, is on the left bank of the Tura River, across from Tyumen itself. Every year the plant must take precautions against the regularly recurring overflow of the river. It takes about fifteen minutes to go from the factory to the city on the road which goes over a wooden bridge, but the trip can be made in a much shorter time on the trolley which runs to the lower end of the plant.

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2. [redacted] the plant yard is about 2000 x 400 meters. Most of the buildings are in the northern half of the yard, and the southern part is used largely as a lumber yard. (See attached map for location and description of buildings.) The plant, reputedly the largest plywood factory in Siberia, was built by German P.W.s during and just after the First World War. The buildings, though old, are high and spacious and completely adequate for production. The main building and the carpentry shop are made of stone.

3. The plant is capable of producing high quality plywood sheets, though its equipment, except for the presses, appeared to source to be rather antiquated. However, little care is taken in running the machinery; and a thorough cleaning, on which all the employees work, is undertaken only once a year.

4. There are five scalping engines in the preparatory room. In the damping room, the steam for the damping is produced in a special, four-doored furnace which burns wood shavings. The presses run day and night. During each of the three shifts, the large press is filled once and delivers six large plywood sheets. These sheets, designed for boat construction, measure 6 x 1.5 meters and have a thickness of 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 centimeters. The large press also produces square wood veneers (Kantholzfuerniere), measuring 35 or 40 x 4 x 4 centimeters. These are made waterproof by a thin special lac.

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For the sizing of the large sheets, a choice and carefully examined special size is used.

5. The small presses are filled at intervals of only ten minutes and consequently produce many rejects since the thin plywood sheets should also lie in the press for hours. The sizing is done with a yellow "film size" ("Filmlaie"), [redacted] 25X1X

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[redacted] During the war, the small presses produced great quantities of three-layer, three-millimeter thick plywood sheets for planes, but this production has been sharply reduced since the war. The sheets produced there now are four, six, eight, and ten millimeters thick and are of terribly poor quality because of the short pressing time. During each shift, enough plywood is produced to fill between two and thirty-six trucks.

6. The plant uses Scotch pine, but also, to a lesser extent, birch and poplar. Logs for the plant are brought to the southern bank of the Tura River on the railway spur which serves the small harbor unloading installation there. The logs, after being rolled down the slope of the bank, are floated across the river during the summer and transported over the ice during the winter. In the southern part of the plant yard are two log-conveying devices which run through the lumber yard to the edge of the river. These devices consist of thirty-to forty-centimeter wide conveyor bands (chains) with a spiked bearing (Stachelaufzuge). They run on rollers and are driven by a forty-horse-power motor.
7. The factory's finished products are transported in trucks, for there is no spur connecting the plant with the main railway. In the plant yard itself there is an electric narrow gauge railway with spurs to all the important buildings. However, as the locomotives are usually out of order, most of the transportation has to be done by hand.
8. During the war, the plant's personnel numbered about 1000 civilian workers and 800 PWs. The numbers have now been reduced to 500 civilians and 400 PWs. The work has always been done in three shifts. The plant has no special guard force; any guarding which appears to be necessary is done by the military unit in charge of the PWs.

Encl.: 1 map

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